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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,217	12/01/2003	Yutaka Muramatsu	K2020.0001/P001-B	9831
24998	7590	04/20/2005		EXAMINER
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP 2101 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20037			GURZO, PAUL M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2881	

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/724,217	MURAMATSU ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Paul Gurzo	2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 14-21 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 14-17 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 18, 19 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 01 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1203 and 0604</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14-17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nonaka et al. (5,993,373).

Regarding claim 14, 373 teaches a medical particle irradiation apparatus comprising a rotating gantry (40) including an irradiation unit emitting particle beams, a first ring member (72) located within and supported by said rotating gantry such that it can rotate relative to said rotating gantry, a second ring member (62) fixedly located opposite said first frame, and a flexible moving floor (82) located between said first and second frames, said flexible moving floor being engaged with said first and second frames in such a manner as to move freely such that its bottom is substantially level and that it moves as said rotating gantry rotates (col. 4, line 16 - col. 5, line 17 and Fig. 2). They also teach that regardless of how much the rotation gantry (40) rotates, the absolute position of moving ring rail (72), or its position relative to the fixing ring rail (62) is kept constant, and thus the moving floor passage (80) is also kept at the same position (col. 5, lines 12-17). This teaching, in addition to the teaching a conveyor chain fitted to the frame (72), obviously teaches on the claimed use of a position retaining unit. 373 also depicts, in Fig. 2, the connection of the first frame to the moving floor that has a level bottom, and it would have been obvious to connect the second frame to the floor as well, thus achieving a

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moving floor guide unit for a flexible moving floor. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prevent undesired rotation to ensure proper alignment of the rotating gantry with the frames and the floor.

Regarding claims 15-17 and 20, 373 teaches the connection of the unit to the rotating gantry (col. 5, lines 1-17) and Fig. 6 and 7 depict a mesh contact outwardly from the center of rotation of the rotating gantry.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18, 19, and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art does not teach or render obvious a first and second rotational element (of claims 18 and 19) or first and second sprocket (of claim 21) having an uneven portion and a shaft member which couples the rotational elements together wherein the shaft member is attached to the rotating gantry such that the shaft member is free to rotate on its axis.

Conclusion

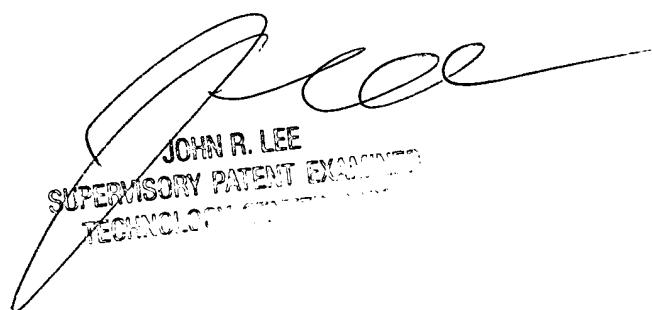
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Gurzo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2472. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Fri. 7:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Lee can be reached at (571) 272-2477. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PMG



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee".

JOHN R. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER